

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 006032
ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STR-04 COME-00 LAB-04 L-03 FRB-03
OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01
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EB/FTD - SFOUTS

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STR - BSTEINBOCK

COMMERCE - EHESSLER

LABOR - BWHITE

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD

SUBJ: SUGGESTED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON
MANUFACTURES

REF: GENEVA 0013

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE UNCTAD
SECRETARIAT'S SUGGESTED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE JULY
SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURES WITH EXCEPTION
OF 3 A, (II), INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES. MANY
AGENDA ITEMS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE DISCUSSED AT THE
COMMITTEE'S SEVENTH SESSION IN JUNE 1975. OTHERS HAVE
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BEEN DRAWN FROM UNCTAD RESOLUTION 96(IV).

2. USG HAS RESERVATIONS REGARDING DESIRABILITY OF
DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE TRADE IN UNCTAD WHILE
DISCUSSION ON FUTURE OF ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL
TRADE IN TEXTILES (MFA) IS UNDER WAY IN TEXTILE COMMITTEE
(TC) OF GATT. THE MEETING WAS HELD IN DECEMBER TO CONDUCT

MAJOR REVIEW OF OPERATION OF MFA SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1974 AND TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT SHOULD BE EXTENDED, MODIFIED, OR DISCONTINUED PAST ITS CURRENT EXPIRATION DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 1977. THE TC IS SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN IN LATE FEBRUARY TO CONTINUE THESE DISCUSSIONS.

WE BELIEVE TC IS PROPER FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE TRADE MATTERS. FYI: DURING DECEMBER TC MEETING THERE WAS A NEAR-CONSENSUS AMONG EXPORTING COUNTRIES ACCEPTING A PROMPT RENEWAL WITHOUT CHANGE; THE BASIS FOR THIS NEAR CONSENSUS WAS THAT EARLY EXTENSION OF MFA WAS BEST COURSE TO AVOID UNCERTAINTY IN INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE TRADE WHICH COULD DAMAGE THEIR INTERESTS. HOWEVER, CONSENSUS IS FRAGILE, AND DISCUSSION OF TEXTILE TRADE ISSUES IN OTHER FORA AT THIS TIME COULD WEAKEN IT AND HURT OUR CHANCES TO ACHIEVE MFA RENEWAL. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO FORCE REMOVAL OF ITEM FROM AGENDA, BUT MISSION SHOULD MAKE OUR CONCERN KNOWN TO SECRETARIAT.
END FYI:

3. THE MISSION MAY INFORM THE SECRETARIAT OF OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA AND OUR VIEWS ON TEXTILES. THE MISSION SHOULD TRY TO LEARN IN MORE SPECIFIC TERMS WHAT THE SECRETARIAT WILL PROPOSE BE DISCUSSED UNDER EACH AGENDA ITEM. THE MISSION SHOULD ALSO URGE THE SECRETARIAT TO ISSUE THE DOCUMENTS FOR THE MEETING EARLY ENOUGH THAT THE DELEGATIONS CAN PREPARE PROPERLY.

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